# Love Coming from the Least Expected Chapter 596

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Mark walked toward us with a kind smile on his face and his hands behind his back. Suddenly, I was at a loss for what to do. It was bad to talk about people behind their backs, and I was caught in the act.

"You're here," I mumbled without calling him Dad. That form of address was still too difficult for me.

"Mr. Goldstein." Christopher stood beside me.

"You're still unwilling to call me Dad." Abruptly, Mark sighed and glanced sideways at Christopher. His eyes were cold, and I could feel an invisible pressure exuding from his body as if he would get angry at any time. Immediately, I was intimidated by the intense aura.

Standing next to Christopher, I did not dare to step back. If Mark was angry, I could not let him vent his anger on Christopher.

Nevertheless, Christopher did not give in and looked into Mark's eyes. Neither of them moved. Abruptly, I felt nervous because if there were any conflicts between them, the consequences would be disastrous.

"Hahaha!" After a while, Mark burst out in laughter and remarked, "As expected of Gordon's son. Not bad."

"Thank you, Mr. Goldstein." Christopher was still standing beside me, and a faint smile appeared on his face.

"You're patient and calm. These days, there aren't many young people who can carry themselves well like you. Most of them are impetuous." Touching his chin, Mark pulled me to his side satisfyingly and said proudly, "As expected of my daughter. You've such a good taste in men."

I was a little embarrassed, for he would praise me at every chance he had. In the past few days, I had heard more compliments than I had heard in the past two decades. Could it be that he's even making up this aspect for me?

"It's a pity that today isn't a good time to chat. Let's find a time and have a good talk," remarked Mark.

"Sure. It just so happens that I've got a lot of things that I want to ask you too," replied Christopher. The next moment, he asked casually, "Why

didn't I see Wesley? As your competent assistant, I can't believe he actually didn't attend such an important event like this."

"He's probably in Anglandur right now. Since he's in charge of many of my businesses, he doesn't have time to attend even if he wants to." At that moment, an indecipherable emotion flickered across Mark's eyes.

Meanwhile, I did not expect Christopher to mention Wesley out of the blue. After the previous incident, although I was aware that Mark knew about it, we avoided the topic subconsciously because with my identity now, it would be appropriate to pursue the matter further.

"Ms. Tanner, Mrs. Goldstein is looking for you. She asked you to go over quickly and stop hanging out with some riff-raff here." Just then, a servant hurried over and repeated what Isabelle said. In an instant, I knew that the riff-raff she was talking about referred to Christopher. Obviously, the servant did not expect Mark to be there as well. As soon as she finished speaking, she was struck dumb looking at Mark with a panic expression on her face.

I waved my hand and asked the servant to leave first. When Mark saw that, he did not pursue the matter further. Frowning, he piped up, "Sometimes, your mother can be quite stubborn, and no one can do anything about it. She hasn't changed at all over the years."

Upon hearing that, I remained silent while maintaining the polite smile on my face. I just can't get close to Mark. Is it because my resentment towards him is too intense? Looking at Christopher, I was reluctant to leave because recently, I had fewer opportunities to meet him.

"Chris..." I called out his name. Before I could say anything else, tears began to well up in my eyes. What should I do for us to be together?

"Go ahead. I'll find a chance and have a good talk with your mother one day. Don't worry." Mark patted my head lightly and turned to Christopher. "My daughter is deeply in love with you. Don't let her down. As long as you don't give up, I have a way to make Belle agree with your relationship."

At that instant, Christopher exchanged looks with me while raising his eyebrows. Then, a wicked smile spread across his face. "Mr. Goldstein, even if you object, I'll never give up."

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I did not know what Mark told Mom. Although she was upset that I met with Christopher in the garden on the day of the banquet, she did not vent her anger on me.

That night, something came up, so Mark left the house, but there was an extra person at the dinner table. The person's name was Crystal Yates. Honestly, I was really surprised by the fact that Crystal stayed behind as a guest. Moreover, I was traumatized by her appearance.

"Crystal, eat up. There's no need to be too courteous. Make yourself at home." Isabelle smiled softly and said to Crystal.

"Thank you, Aunt Isabelle. You should eat more too. Try this carrot. It's not just a vegetable. Eating more carrots can help keep your skin healthy and vibrant. You'll always stay as beautiful as you're now. If we go out together, others might think that you're my elder sister."

"Oh, come on. You're flattering me so much that I almost think that I'm only eighteen years old."

In fact, Crystal was really good at sweet-talking. She was a master in making the elders happy back then. Mom was no exception as well. For the whole night, she had kept a smile on her face and even ate an extra serving of food.

"How is it? After taking over the Tanner family, are there any problems that you can't handle? Just tell me if you encounter any problems. I'll definitely help you solve them and prevent others from taking advantage of it," Isabelle inquired while grinning.

"Well, there's a little problem." Looking at Isabelle, Crystal was hesitant to speak.

"You can be honest with us. We're not outsiders."

Having said that, Isabelle nudged my arm lightly. In response, I nodded in agreement. I did not even know what the food tasted like. Looking at Isabelle and Crystal, who were chatting happily, I felt that they were mother and daughter, and I was an outsider.

Crystal was definitely the most amazing person I had ever seen. She seemed to be born with a kind of talent that could make people treat her kindly. Even Mom was no exception.

Sighing in my heart, I completely lost my appetite.

"It's about the business of the Tanner family. Because of the misrepresentation in the newspaper before this, our business has been affected. After I take over, the situation has gotten worse. Aunt Isabelle, you know well that I'm not talented in doing business. If it hadn't been for Uncle Nathan, the company would have been in a mess right now."

Immediately, Crystal told Isabelle about the situation of the Tanner family. In actuality, Isabelle was well aware of the situation, but she still listened very seriously just because Crystal was the one who was talking.

"This is certainly a problem."

After putting down her spoon, Isabelle had a grim expression. At that moment, I realized that she was actually thinking about the issue seriously.

She pondered for a moment and said to Crystal, "I'm attending a business gathering tomorrow, and everyone else is either the person in charge of prominent families or investment companies. Why don't you go with me? Actually, I'm looking for investors for a project. The Tanner family should participate in the project too. It's just that you won't profit much from it. What do you think?"

In an instant, Crystal's eyes lit up, and she exclaimed, "I'm very much willing to participate in the project. Thank you, Aunt Isabelle. You're my life savior!"

"Life savior? You're exaggerating." Amused by Crystal's words, Isabelle burst into hearty laughter.

I had never seen Mom laugh like that in front of me. Suddenly, I was stunned, and a thought crossed my mind. Mom is laughing happily because of Crystal. On the contrary, the relationship between Mom and me has been tense because of Christopher.

"Yvonne, why aren't you eating? All these dishes are prepared by Aunt Isabelle. They're her hard work. Even if you're used to eating the food from the Lane family, you shouldn't let her effort go to waste."

After Crystal finished speaking, I clearly noticed Mom's expression had darkened, and she seemed to be very unhappy. My face immediately fell as Crystal was obviously sowing discord between Mom and me. Not to mention that she purposely mentioned the things that Mom hated.

Hearing that, I snorted and responded dissatisfiedly, "Watch your tongue. This is the Goldstein residence. Do you mean I don't even have the right to eat as much as I like?"

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### $/\ \mbox{Love Coming from the Least Expected}$

We were not in the Tanner residence, and I was no longer the former me. Previously, Crystal could make things difficult for me and bully me in the Tanner residence, but now, I would never allow her to provoke me.

"I- Aunt Isabelle..." Crystal was stumped by what I said, and her expression changed. Immediately, she looked at Isabelle and explained, "Aunt Isabelle, that's not what I meant. I just..."

With that said, she was on the verge of tears as if she had been greatly wronged. Back then, she loved to use that kind of forlorn expression to say some specious things to make everyone misunderstand. Looking at her, I sneered. We were not in the Tanner residence, and her close male friends were not present either. Who was she showing the pitiful expression to?

"Eve, you've gone too far." Isabelle looked at me displeasingly and scolded, "Crystal is our guest. As the host, how can you talk to her like this? Hurry up and apologize."

"Mom!" Upon hearing that, I widened my eyes in shock. I was so surprised that I was at a loss for words. Mom actually sided with Crystal and asked me to apologize. Did I say anything wrong?

The next moment, I turned my head to look at Crystal. She was still looking at me pitifully, but the triumph in her eyes had already betrayed her true feelings.

"Aunt Isabelle, please don't scold Yvonne. It's my fault. I shouldn't talk nonsense and make her angry. I'm the one who should be apologizing." Suddenly, Crystal stood up and uttered in fear.

"You didn't say anything wrong." Immediately, Isabelle pulled her back onto her seat and glared at me. "You only told the truth and made someone irritated."

### Smack!

The next instant, I put down my spoon, pushed aside the chair, and stood up. "Suit yourselves."

I could no longer stand it. Hence, I turned around, left the living room, and walked into the garden. Blood was rushing through my veins. I was so

furious that even the flowers were an eyesore. Infuriated, I stepped on a red flower and crushed it.

I'm Mom's daughter. How can she side with an outsider? Not to mention that the outsider had always bullied me, and I hated her to the core.

"What's so great about you? The only thing you can do is say nice words to please others. Even if you're good at doing that, you still dug your own grave in the end. What else can you get? Argh! I'm so angry!"

"The flower didn't offend you. Will it apologize to you if you bully it?" Just then, Lucas walked out from behind the big tree and picked up the flower under my feet with a sympathetic expression.

"It's just a flower. As the daughter of the Goldstein family, can't I even step on a flower?" Under the influence of anger, I spoke without thinking. I sounded like an unreasonable woman who was taking out my exasperation on Lucas.

"This camellia is extremely rare. I had liked camellia when I was young, so I bought this from a place at a high price and shipped it here by air," he said with an innocent expression. While holding on to the flower, he lowered his head. "If I'm the flower, this will be its expression."

In an instant, I was bemused by his funny expression and was shocked by what he said. So that's why the flower is planted in a separate flowerbed. Feeling embarrassed, I apologized, "I'm sorry. I was blinded by rage just now. Should I ask the gardener if there's any way to save this flower?"

"I'm an expert. If you want to ask a gardener, you might as well ask me." Casting me a contemptuous look, he piped up, "As my cousin, you don't even know my craftsmanship. What kind of friend are you?"

Hearing what he said, I scratched my head and flushed with embarrassment. After he took care of the flowers and was about to leave, I looked at his back and thought of everything that happened back then. Abruptly, I asked, "Lucas, you'd known my identity since a long time ago, right? Am I really Mark's daughter?"

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Lucas stopped, turned to look at me, and said with a frown, "Are you still bothered by this issue? That's not like you. I've always thought that you wanted a loving family. Isn't it good to have a father?" Lucas had always been a good friend. He had read my situation very accurately; I did yearn for a close and affectionate family where there would always be someone who cared for me. Surprisingly, when it was revealed that I was Mark's daughter, I found it hard to accept and actually felt uneasy. Was it because the weight of the name Goldstein was too much to bear?

"I do wish for a loving father, but, oh!" I sighed softly. "Perhaps it is too much to wish for, and it's rather unbelievable. After all the twists and turns, I've finally become your cousin. Isn't it incredible?"

"Nothing is impossible. You are now a member of the Goldstein family. Just enjoy the power that comes with it and do whatever you wish to. You can be willful and difficult and even raise hell. You can be sure Uncle Mark will be there for you," Lucas told her.

He showed such certainty that I was sure that he knew about the relationship between Mark and me long before this. I felt a little confused and whispered, "Do you regret being so good to me before? After all..."

Lucas had been treated very badly by Mark and though I did not say it, Lucas had sensed it. He broke into a hearty laugh and said, "Has this got anything to do with you? Aren't you going to be friends with me anymore?"

Lucas immediately put me at ease. He is such a charming and charismatic man. It's no wonder that I can never forget my first impression of him lying on the sickbed and laughing away despite his depression.

I punched him and said with a smile, "You are a real buddy, Lucas. You told me that I can raise hell. Well, let me know whenever you are in trouble and I'll raise hell together with you."

"Remember your words," said Lucas as he looked deeply at me. "When the time comes, don't make excuses."

"Shall we make a pinky swear then?" I said. "My intention is magnanimous and I am ready to go through hell and high water for a friend, but your words are like pouring cold water on me."

To my surprise, Lucas put out his little finger for the swear and said seriously, "He who lies is a puppy."

I gave two woofs in agreement and said gently, "If you don't always put on that melancholy look, I guarantee you'll be the best of friends with Chris."

"If I say that I'm not interested, will you beat me up?"

### "Get lost!"

I felt much better after Lucas' comforting words. Even the knowledge of Crystal and Isabelle going to a spa beauty treatment together did not bother me anymore. They had their common interests, all of which did not appeal to me at all.

Perhaps Mom is thinking of using Crystal to help the Tanner family. Despite the love and hate, I somehow get the feeling that Uncle Nathan has a special place in Mom's heart.

I made up my mind to be an ostrich to keep my mind at ease.

That night, while I was in bed chatting with Christopher over the phone, there was a knock on the door. This was Isabelle's favorite time for a milk bath and I thought it might be the housekeeper bringing the clothes over. I shouted for her to come in and went to run the bathwater.

"I'm going for my bath now. Love you, Darling. We'll talk tomorrow." I was about to take off my clothes when I saw Crystal's ghostly figure. I almost yelled in fright.

"Crystal, what the hell are you doing acting in this ghostly manner? Well, let me tell you, I'm not afraid of ghosts," I said angrily.

"I didn't want to disturb you as you were on the phone." Crystal seated herself on the couch in a familiar manner. She said in a half-smile, "Aunt Isabelle doesn't like the Lane family, and here you are carrying on furtively with Christopher. Do you think that's acceptable?"

"That's none of your business. I don't care what you do to get into my mom's good books, but I warn you, Crystal, don't you dare get funny ideas in your head. Lady luck does not smile on you all the time."

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Crystal had a big mouth, and I had to warn her. She was quite capable of dropping snippets of nonsense in my mom's ears and creating a rift between me and my mom.

"Tsk, Tsk. I won't dare to think of any crooked ideas. Besides, I rely on Aunt Isabelle to get what I want. Why would I want to offend you, Yvonne Tanner?" Crystal flashed a provocative look through her narrowed eyes. She called me Yvonne Tanner! People now addressed me as Ms. Goldstein or Yvonne Goldstein. Only Christopher would refer to me as Yvonne Tanner and that's because he knew that I liked him to do so. But when Crystal said it, it just sounded sarcastic.

"No doubt, you are now Ms. Goldstein, all high and mighty. You have every right to be so. But, you must be thinking, what right do I have to speak to you in such a manner? I'm just a miserable nobody, right?" Crystal gave a strange laugh of delight as if she held some secrets over me, of which I didn't even know of.

"What are you trying to say? I have no time for such chattering. Please leave if you have no other business. To put it plainly, get lost!" I had no wish to talk to her at all. Her carrying-on with my mom in the afternoon had infuriated me enough.

"You have a guilty conscience because in your heart you are still uneasy about everything." Crystal laughed loudly. "Yvonne, shall we have another bet? Let us say, whether I can get into the Remington art exhibition, and hang my painting at the space allocated for you."

Crystal's words were loaded with meaning. Taking my space meant that she wanted to replace me. I narrowed my eyes. I had great confidence in my painting skills. "Are you sure that your own painting is good enough to replace mine?"

"Perhaps I don't even have to paint it." Crystal laughed in an inscrutable manner, but her face exuded every confidence of sure success.

This made me flustered because, in the past, I had always lost my bets with her. Hearing these familiar words and seeing the same old arrogant and dismissive expression on her face made me feel like my pathetic old self.

The more I panicked, the more determined I became. I said between gritted teeth, "What have you done, Crystal?"

"You will know when the time comes, Yvonne. You will never defeat me. No matter how high you climb, you will never beat me. Haha."

Crystal's words and Crystal the person were a curse to me. I could not be rid of it no matter what I did. Because of what she said, I did not get a good night's sleep. My dreams were nightmares of Crystal. You can't beat me. You are a pathetic worm. It's only in your dreams that you can defeat me. I will take away everything that is yours. When I woke up in the morning, I had the self-fulfilled two dark circles under my eyes. There was no one around at breakfast. After asking around, I found out that Isabelle and Crystal had gone shopping.

"What the heck? Who the hell is her daughter!" I slammed down the bowl and cutlery angrily.

Christopher clapped his hand over his mouth in laughter when he saw me with my panda eyes. I punched him angrily. "Have you never seen a panda before?"

"I've never seen such a lovely panda, indeed. Did our sex chats give you such erotic dreams that you couldn't sleep well?" Christopher said slyly. "I should have broken in last night and gotten myself an eager panda. That's a nice thought."

"How can you still joke about it?" If Christopher had come and we were caught in flagrante by the likes of Crystal, there would be a big brouhaha. I sighed gloomily at the thought of Crystal.

"What's the matter? Why the long face?"